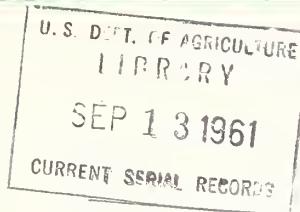


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RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT



newsletter

We must show the
world what a
free economy can do
...to put unused
capacity to work,
spur new
productivity and
foster higher
economic growth.

President Kennedy.

September 1961

No. 36
Supplement

The need for Rural Areas Development is imperative. Nothing reflects this need more graphically than statements by national, State, and local leaders who know conditions in the nation's rural areas, and are attempting to work out effective programs to stimulate new enterprises and opportunities in small towns and farming communities. The following statements illustrate a wide consensus on both the problem and the solution.

WEAPON TO WIPE AWAY CHRONIC DEPRESSION

"I believe that in the Rural Areas Development Program we have the weapon to wipe away the chronic depression which now enchains many areas. It can lift the curse of underemployment which saps the strength of our rural economy in every area. It takes the first step towards the permanent prosperity of the rural community." Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman, address to National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Rural Areas Development Conference, Washington, D. C., May 1961.

WELL DESIGNED TO MEET THIS SPECIAL SITUATION

"In these (pockets of poverty in agriculture) the talents, training, and productivity of many individuals are low. As a result incomes are low and a program suitable for commercial producers does not meet their needs. Rural Development is well designed to meet this special situation and should be broadened. It should be supplemented by educational opportunities for those who can and will take advantage of the vast range of jobs which a dynamic society must continue to provide, both in rural as well as urban areas." Homer L. Brinkley, Executive Vice President, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, address to USDA Conference on Policies and Programs for American agriculture, January 1961.



NOT ENOUGH JOBS TO GO AROUND

"The rural depression is slowing down America, and we can not allow our nation to slow down in these critical times."

"The present disparity in income reflects low farm prices and it also reflects widespread rural underemployment. There are not enough jobs to go around in rural America today." Norman M. Clapp, Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, NRECA Conference on Rural Areas Development, Washington, D. C., May 1961.

TO ELIMINATE POVERTY IN RURAL AMERICA

"....we are losing a tremendous quantity of capital production in the unemployed poverty stricken families of America who receive some but comparatively little benefit from price support programs."

"....we will support whatever national legislation, administrative action, and the financing needed to eliminate poverty in rural America."

James G. Patton, President, National Farmers Union, address to USDA Conference on Policies and Programs for American Agriculture, January 1961.

DECENTRALIZATION OF INDUSTRY AND PLANNING

"The problems that confront small towns and communities....exist throughout the country. Some day, we fear, we will lose these picturesque communities which have done so much to make the U. S. what it is today. We would hope that Area Redevelopment will....give some assistance to these communities through such things as decentralization of industry and planning." Senators Mike Mansfield and Lee Metcalfe, joint statement, hearings of Subcommittee on Production and Stabilization, Senate Committee on Banking and Currency, January 1961.

KEY FACTOR IN THE COLD WAR

"We want to enable rural America to make a more rapid economic growth. This is a key factor in winning the cold war. If the U. S. can't prove to the non-committed peoples of the world -- most of whom live in rural sections -- that we can eliminate rural poverty, they will wonder why they should pay too much attention to our nation." John A. Baker, Director of Agricultural Credit Services, address to NRECA Conference on Rural Areas Development, Washington, D. C., May 1961.

NEW LIFE AND VIGOR

"I am delighted to see the new life and vigor the Administration is bringing into the Rural Areas Development Program.It is a program that is sorely needed." Representative Wright Patman, Statement in House of Representatives, July 27, 1961.

SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE

"We have looked at the steady loss of farm population, the withering away of rural communities depending on farms. Obviously something has to be done. That is the purpose of the Rural Areas Development Program. It is aimed at starting small town cash registers ringing again." Howard Bertsch, Administrator, Farmers Home Administration, address to South Dakota FHA meeting, July 1961.

MASS EXODUS FROM RURAL AREAS

"The mass exodus from rural areas continues because better living opportunity lies elsewhere. There is a point below which any community tends to disintegrate and the people, who can, move away. Conversely, there is a point above which the community tends to hold together and other people move in. And it's in an effort to help our communities hold together and improve that we support Rural Redevelopment activities." Clyde T. Ellis, General Manager, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, address to Conference on Rural Areas Development, Washington, D. C., May 1961.

NEVER A GREATER OPPORTUNITY

"Many of these (rural) areas obviously have abundant human and physical resources which are not being adequately utilized and which could contribute greatly to economic development if properly employed."

"....I don't think Extension has ever had a greater opportunity to exercise a more meaningful and significant leadership role than it now has in this effort." E. T. York, Jr., Administrator, Federal Extension Service, address to Regional Extension Conferences on Rural Areas Development, July, August 1961.

A NEW NATIONAL POLICY

"Secretary Freeman's efforts to stimulate industrial development in rural areas have far-reaching possibilities. The immediate objective of this movement is to relieve underemployment of farmers, but if it is successful it can have a salutary effect on urban life as well."

"From these beginnings a new national policy may well emerge. As farms increase in size and still less manpower is needed to produce food, there are many advantages in taking factories to the country instead of

luring more people into the larger cities. Congress may well conclude that this is the only practical way of maintaining some degree of balance between rural and urban life in these changing times." Washington (D.C.) Post and Times Herald editorial, April 19, 1961.

CONTEST WITH TOTALITARIAN CIVILIZATION

"....to put this problem in even larger context, we are all aware of the fact that we are entering into the critical and possible determining phase of our contest with totalitarian civilization. The tremendous impact of the new Soviet economy has consistently altered our own official conservative estimates of the technological and economic capacities of the Soviet Union....In this mortal contest we must not and we cannot allow the continuation of a waste of human and material resources." Senator Jennings Randolph, hearings of Subcommittee on Production and Stabilization, Senate Committee on Banking and Currency, January 1961.

PRACTICAL ANSWER

"....an alliance of industry and commerce with the agriculture of the territories they serve....is a practical answer to the problems of the drain of population away from rural areas to the cities, particularly to the human tragedy many rural communities face in sacrificing to educate their young people, only to lose their productive talents to more prosperous urban communities because of the lack of opportunity at home." Editorial, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, July 3, 1961.

A MORE STABLE BASE

"....the needs of (smaller areas) have equal urgency with those of the larger population concentrations....I wish to again emphasize the importance of assistance for the rural areas in obtaining new industry to provide the economy with a more stable base." Senator Estes Kefauver, hearings of Subcommittee on Production and Stabilization, Senate Banking and Currency Committee, January 1961.

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